Examiner's Comment

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/15/09 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

3.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Mr. Lawrence E. Carter, Reg. # 51,532 on 6/24/09.

4.   Amending the claims as follow:

                    1.   (Previously Presented) A method for registering a process

            in a system where communication events occur that are related to notifications,

            the method comprising:

providing a user context including a user context state, the user context

defining a communication event to be performed in response to a notification for

at least one value of the user context state;

providing a rule that specifies at least one condition for modifying the

defined communication event;

receiving a message to register a process for communication events;

registering the process in response to the received message, the registered

process being a program that includes data regarding the user context state that is

outside data maintained by other components of the system;

receiving an indication that the user context state has changed value; and

evaluating a sender, in response to the occurrence of the defined

communication event or the modified defined communication event, to determine

whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender,

wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises determining whether the

sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized

message.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein

one type of communication event occurs when a notification from a sender is not

delivered to a user due to a user's context.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein in response to receiving a communication event, the registered process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification that includes data about the user.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the registered process is a calendaring program and the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the data about the user includes at least one alternative contact for the user.

7-8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for registering a process in a user context system, the user context system including a user context state and a rule, wherein a communication event to be performed in response to a notification is defined for at least one value of the user context state, and the rule includes at least one condition for modifying the defined communication event, the method comprising:

        sending a message for registering a process, the registered process being a program that has data regarding the user context state that is outside [[the]] data maintained by [[the]] other components of the user context system;

        evaluating a sender, in response the occurrence of the defined communication event or the modified defined communication event, to determine

whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises determining whether the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message, and

providing the registered process with information regarding the communication event.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the defined communication event is related to a notification that is sent from a sender to a user.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the information regarding the defined communication event indicates that the notification did not reach the user.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the information regarding the defined communication event includes a copy of the notification.

13.   (Canceled).

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the data provided to the registered process comprises data regarding the user's activities.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the registered process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification that includes data regarding the user.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media ~~on which are stored machine~~ having stored thereon computer-executable instructions including instructions for implementing a notification system~~, the notification system~~ comprising:

a user context process for setting a user context including a user context state and at least one user rule, the user context and the at least one user rule being made available to a user for modification in accordance with a preference of the user, wherein a communication event to be performed in response to a notification is defined for at least one value of the user context state, and the at least one rule includes at least one condition for modifying the communication event;

a receiving component which receives notifications from a sending component and under specified conditions delivers the notifications to the user; and

a registered process, the registered process being a program that has data regarding the user context state that is outside [[the]] data maintained by [[the]] other components of the notification system;

wherein when the sending component sends a notification to the receiving component, if the notification is not delivered to the user then a message is sent to the registered process regarding the non-delivery of the notification and wherein a sender who is associated with the sending component is evaluated to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, the evaluation of the sender comprising determination of whether the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

18.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 17, wherein the specified conditions under which a notification will not be delivered to a user are determined according to a user context.

19.   (Canceled).

20.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 17, wherein in response to receiving a message regarding the non-delivery of a notification the registered process provides a customized message to the sending component that includes data about the user.

21.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 20, wherein the registered process is a calendaring program and the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

22.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 20, wherein the data about the user indicates at least one alternative contact for the user.

23-24. (Canceled)

25.   (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media ~~on which are stored machine~~ having stored thereon computer-executable instructions including instructions for implementing a user context system~~, the user context system~~ comprising:

a first process for setting a user context including a user context state and at least one user rule, the user context and the at least one user rule being made available to a user for modification in accordance with at least one preference of the user, wherein a communication event to be performed in response to a notification is defined for at least one value of the user context state, and the at least one rule includes at least one condition for modifying the communication event;

a second process for generating a notification; and

a third process that is registered;

wherein the registered third process receives an event message in response to the notification not being delivered to the user, and wherein a sender of the notification who is associated with the second process is evaluated to determine whether the registered third process will send a customized message to the sender when the notification does not reach the user, the evaluation of the sender comprising a determination of whether the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

26.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the second process is a communication program.

27.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 26, wherein the communication program comprises one of an email or instant messaging program.

28.   (Currently Amended) The media of Claim 25, wherein the registered third process is a program that has data regarding the user that is outside [[the]] data that is maintained by [[the]] other components of the user context system.

29.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 28, wherein the registered third process is a calendaring program that has data regarding the user's scheduled activities.

30.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 28, wherein the registered third process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification which includes information regarding the user.

31.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 30, wherein the customized message indicates a time when the user may next be available.

32.   (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the user context that is set by the first process indicates when the user is not available to interruption.

33. (Currently Amended) The media of Claim 32, wherein when the <u>registered</u> third process receives an event message indicating that a notification was not delivered to the user, the registered third process sends a customized message indicating when the user may next be available.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed in a category that the user has selected.

36 - 38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The computer storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to claim 44, further comprising computer-usable instructions for enabling the evaluation of a notification in accordance with the user context in order to determine whether the notification will be delivered to the user.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to Claim 39, wherein if the notification is not delivered to the user, then a communication event occurs which is delivered to the registered process.

41.   (Canceled)

42.   (Previously Presented) The computer storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to Claim 44, wherein if a customized message is sent, the customized message is made to include data about the user.

43.   (Previously Presented) The computer storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to Claim 42, wherein the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

44.   (Previously Presented) One or more computer-storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method for providing information regarding communication events, at least one communication event occurring when a notification is not delivered to a user, comprising:

        providing a user context including a user context state, the user context defining a communication event to be performed in response to a notification for at least one value of the user context state;

        providing a rule that specifies at least one condition for modifying the defined communication event;

        receiving a message to register a process for communication events;

registering the process in response to the received message, the registered

process being a program that includes data regarding the user context state that is

outside data maintained by other components of the system;

receiving an indication that the user context state has changed value; and

evaluating a sender, in response to the occurrence of the defined

communication event or the modified defined communication event, to determine

whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender,

wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises determining whether the

sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized

message.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Qing-Yuan Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3776. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-6:00pm Monday-Thursday and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Hyung (Sam) Sough can be reached on (571) 272-6799. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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/Hyung S. SOUGH/   /Qing-Yuan Wu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2194   Examiner, Art Unit 2194
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